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Observations

UPON

Mr. Walkers Account

OF THE

SIEGE of Londonderry.

WITH SOME

REMARKS

On the Great and Memorable Actions there done.

Licensed, October 4th. 1689. J. F.

ENvy is the inseparable Concomitant of Great and Brave Men; all their Ordinary Performances are attended by Obloquy, and Censure. No sooner does the Prosperous Sun shine upon any Generous Enterprize, but Clouds of Malice, Mediance, and Detraction obscure the Glory of the Undertaking; and Love, Charity, and Respect, degenerate into Hatred, Despight, and Contempt.

It is not long ſince the Eyes of all *England* were fix'd upon the Succeſs of *London-Derry*. The *Proteſtants* ſolemnly wish'd for its Preſervation, as the laſt Pledge of their Security, and Reſtitution. The *Papiſts* eagerly long'd for its *Rendition*, as the infallible means to compleat their univerſal Deſign; and an uncontroulable Opportunity to poſſeſs *Ireland*, to invade *Scotland*, and embroyle *England*. To ſay nothing of the Proteſtant Intereſt through *Europe*, on which the Fate of that Place had an undoubted Aſpect, and Influence.

At that time, all men were prompted with a Curioſity to obſerve, and wonder, that ſo mean a Place could make ſo Vigorous a Reſiſtance againſt ſo terrible a Siege; that a Rabble of raw un-diſciplin'd men could know how to make ſuch proſperous Sallys againſt a Formidable Army, commanded by Officers of great Name. It was the Talk of every Meeting, Club, and Table; every man was inquiſitive to underſtand, who was the Commander, and Governour of that City; and when it came to be known, that Mr. *Walker* was the man, a thouſand Queſtions were ſtarted about his Birth, Education, Function, and Inclinations, all men admiring at ſuch prodigious Actions, which no Age nor Hiſtory can parallel, and which create a Credibility even in the moſt improbable Romances. No leſs liberal were they in their Applauſes and Commendations, extolling his Fame in Verſes and Panegyricks, publiſhing his Effigies in Printed Cuts, toſſing his Name between Printers and Hawkers, and making it the Subject of News-Letters, and Gazets; while every man, according to his Fancy, proportion'd a Reward to his un-requitable

Merits: It seem'd, as if *London* intended him a publick *Roman* Triumph, and the whole Kingdom to be Actors, or Spectators of the Cavalcade. At last he arrived; the King received him gratiously, and conferred on him a Mark of His Favour, and Esteem; the Lords of the Council, and several of the Nobility caressed him with abundance of Kindness, and Respect: the Prime Citizens treated him with all the Demonstrations of Joy, and Gratitude; and the Vulgar even stifled him with Gazing, Crowding, and Acclamations.

Amidst this Warmth of Honour, and Satisfaction, some malignant Exhalations have been rais'd, to darken and obscure the Reputation of this most celebrated Person; and invidious men have sought Inventions to disparage his Veracity, and vilifie his Credit; and stirred up a Dust, which possibly may reverberate on the Eyes of them that caus'd it, but can with no Reason, or Justice, affect him.

Mr. *Walker* being by his best and nearest Friends press'd to write a Narrative of the Memorable Siege of *London-Derry*, was with much Reluctancy perswaded to it, because it was impossible to emit a Succinct and exact Narration of so many various and unusual Adventures, without mentioning the Errours, and Miscarriages of some concern'd in that Affair on the one hand; and on the other hand, without doing Violence to his own Modesty, in becoming the Herauld of his own Praises. Nevertheless, out of such Notes, and Minutes, as he had by him, and set down upon the Place, he digested all matters into an orderly Account of the Siege, industriously omitting the Honour due to himself, in many particular Actions;

and passing over, or very tenderly touching upon such things as really are unaccountable, and unexcusable. So that I dare boldly say, there never was a Distourse of that Nature, wherein such unexampled Occurrences, so many men of different Humours, Perswasions, and Designs, must of necessity be taken Notice of, written with so much easiness, calmness, and indifferency; and with so little Reflection.

Yet after all this, the Spirit of Envy and Detraction is seen in our Streets, and some men will be dissatisfied, only to gratifie their own Perverseness. One finds fault with the Form and Method of the Narrative, another cavils at the Contents and Passages in it, never considering, that the Sincerity of a true and impartial Relation will not admit of such Subterfuges of Art and Rhetorick, as are necessary to support a Fancy or Fiction. Neither is it easie to represent a Story with such a face of Impartiality, as the Beholder can espy no Spots, or Wrinkles in it. Some out of an incredulous Smatterer will not believe that a Person bred up in Study and Learning, conversant onely in Books, and accustomed to the Pulpit, should so wonderfully (as it were by an Enthusiasm of Military Skill) discharge the Part of a Veterane Souldier, and a GENERAL. But it is certain beyond all Colour of a just Contradiction, that no man ever yet performed so difficult a Task with more Prudence, Moderation, and Dexterity; convincing the World by his Example, that Learning and Valour are not incompatible; that Wisdom, Sagacity, and good Conduct, accompany'd by a clean and natural Courage, are sufficient Qualifications to make a Great Commander, without the

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Aid of Diſcipline, Exerciſe, and the Art of War. Others taking Notice, that *Colonel Baker* (who indeed was a brave Man, and a good Souldier) is mentioned as his Collegue in the Government; and that other Officers and Gentlemen have been Sharers in the Fatigue and Dangers attending the Siege, learn to grudge and repine, that the Honour of thoſe extraordinary Atchievements ſhould be attributed ſolely to him; and judging that the Pecuniary Reward preſented to him, ought with more Reaſon to be diſtributed, and divided among his Fellow-Actors. I ſhall ſay nothing to derogate from thoſe Worthy Perſons, who have ſo commendably acted, and ſuffered for their Religion, and Country: But when men ſhall coolly conſider, that the Officers and Souldiers of that Garriſon are the Object of the Kings eſpecial Care, and that by continuing them in Commands, or daily Pay, they receive a Recompence anſwerable to their Merits; while Mr. *Walker* being by his Function uncapable of ſuch Imployments, could not depend upon a growing Subſiſtence; they muſt ingeniouſly conclude, that His Majeſty did not teſtifie His Acknowledgments to him with leſs Prudence, than Generoſity: The further Effects of which, if he had not by his invincible Modeſty reſiſted, he had before this time been eſtabliſhed in a Station of great Eminency, and conſiderable Profit. And howſoever the Sum may bear the Shew of a Reward proportionate to his Service: I dare aver it is far ſhort of his very Sufferings, and will not reach to the refunding of what he has loſt in his Houſes and Perſonal Eſtate, by Fire, Plunder, and other Outrages done by his, and our implacable Enemies. But

But all these Objections are but squibs and flurts, the extravagances of passionate and inconsiderate men, and such as are strangers to the Business, to the Place, and to Him: Hitherto, I have had no further Tryal, than to avoid the single Attacks of a particular displeasure, doubt or dissatisfaction; I am now to encounter a Legion; I hear a Volly of Whispers and Murmurs, and some pragmatical men would pretend to interess a whole Party; tho' I perswade my self that men so Discreet and so Judicious, will not concern themselves in such Altercations. It is observed, that in the Account given of the *Siege of London-Derry*, a very black Character is infixed on a *Non-Conformist* Preacher, *pag.* 21. where it is said, that Mr. *Osburn was a Spy upon the whole North, imployed by my Lord Tirconnel:* that in another Place (viz. *pag.* 57.) where the *Ministers of the Church of England* are enumerated and re-counted by Pole; there is only a slight mention made of the *Non-Conforming Ministers* to the number of seven, but not the least hint of one of their Names. In the Vindication of this passage, I shall desire the Reader fairly and equally to consider the Occasion. Mr. *Walker*, when he had given an Account, that *there were Eighteen Clergy-men in the Town of the Communion of the Church* (ascribing no more to them, than *that in their turns, when they were not in Action, they had Prayers and Sermon every Day*) he proceeds gentilely, and Impartially to commemorate the Carriage of the *Seven Non-Conforming Ministers*, giving them this Encomium (beyond that he said of his own Brethren) *that they were careful of their People, and kept them very Obedient and Quiet*; and having a Design Rhetorically to enforce their Commendation, he could not more

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Artificially insinuate it to their Advantage, than by marking the plain Disparity in the behaviour of *their Brother Mr. Osburn*, who in his Letters, Messages and Discourses, was Reported to Entertain Sentiments very much different from theirs. I shall not at present say any more of Mr. *Osburn*, than what is already said; but I desire every man, who is not byassed by prejudice or prepossession, quietly to consider, whether Mr *Walker* (pen't up within the Walls of *London-Derry*, deprived of all Information and Intelligence both of Publick Affairs, and the Actions of Private Men) seeing a Letter from a Person generally known, and an Eminent Leader of a Party, discovering an admission *into the Presence of the Popish Lord Deputy* (the great Engine and Operator in the ruin of *Ireland*) an Intimacy with him, and a *Trust* and *Commission* derived from him, whereby he was directed to cajole the poor distracted and disanimated Protestants, with the Terror of *Conquest*, and Military Execution on the one side, in case of Opposition; and the delusion of hope to be secure under a *Protection*, in case of *Submission*, and a tame *Surrender of their Arms and Horses*: I say, whether Mr. *Walker*, perusing this ambiguous Letter, and observing the pernicious Effects of it, upon the generality of the People in *Ulster*, especially those of the writers Perswasion, whereby they were influenc'd to a stupid & fatal Compliance (*as if the Doctrine of* Passive Obedience & Non-Resistance *may be taught on fit occasions, even by such as dissent from the Church of* England) had not reason to suspect his Candor, and too apprehensive, and become very jealous of his Integrity; If this Argument will not suffice to justify Mr. *W*'s. assertion (who in the whole Narrative is not provoked to fix a positive Character on any other Person but him) there may possibly be more demonstrative Proofs ready to be produced, which nothing but querulous Murmurs, sophistical Evasions, and unhandsome Reflections can Extort from him. For assuredly, neither he nor I retain any Inclinations, but what tend to Moderation and Unity; Earnestly wishing a perfect Agreement & Understanding among all *Protestants*. As to the other part of the Expostulation, why eighteen Names of the Ministers of the Communion of the Church of *England* should be distinctly recited; and of seven *Non-Conforming* Ministers

not one should be remembred, I have only this to say, that since those Gentlemen did not think it fit to joyn with Mr. *Walker* in the Church, and possibly their Inclinations did not dispose them to meet him upon the *Walls*, or accompany him in his Sallies; it is no way strange or improbable, that their Names should be altogether unknown to him; neither can he be suspected purposely to over-look the naming of them, since he hath remembred them generally with so ingenious a Description of their Care and Concernment for their Flock. Nay, to put it out of all Doubt, and beyond the reach of Murmur it self; let it be taken Notice of (I am well assured of what I say) that when Mr. *Walker* gave His Majesty an Account of the Affairs of *London-Derry*, he Candidly and Impartially represented the Action and Service of those few *Dissenters* in the Garrison, and recommended them to the KING'S Favours, equally with the rest.

Some Remarks *upon the Great and Memorable* SIEGE *of* London-Derry.

IT is so ordinary a thing in the World, to ascribe unusual Success and Prosperity in great Undertakings, to the Super-natural Operations of Providence, that every Country and every Religion will at some time boast their Title, and share in it. The *Mahometans* put in their Claim to this, as well as *Christians*; and the universal spreading of Popery hath presumed to inculcate that as an especial Mark of Divine Approbation, which others have look'd on only as a Permission of Vengeance for the Sins of those who Professed the true Religion. Miracles are ceased, yet it is no solecism to call such Occurrences Miraculous, which come to pass without means, beyond hope, contrary to expectation, where no humane Art or Strength is greatly contributory; but the Finger of God is plainly visible and discernible in all the Performances, and Transactions. And that *London-Derry*, (and consequently the *Protestant* Interest) hath been under the peculiar Protection of the Almighty, preserved by unforeseen Accidents, and wonderfully Delivered from their Rage who ga-

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ned for their Deſtructions, and preſumptuouſly aſſured themſelves of Victory: I ſhall endeavour to demonſtrate by the few following Remarks, which ſerve as ſo many Links to compoſe one *Chain* of Miracles

1. The inexcuſable overſight of the Earl of *Tirconnel*, who, to ſuper-erogate in his Zeal to ſerve the Late King, withdrew the whole Garriſon out of *London-Derry*, not leaving ſo much as a Centinel on the Walls, or a Souldier at the Gates; nor remembring to ſupply that removal by a New Potent, till People were awakened by their imminent Danger, and warn'd to conſult their Safety.

2. The courageous and ſeaſonable Reſolution of the Inhabitants of *London-Derry* to ſhut their Gates, & deny Entrance to a numerous ſwarm of *Iriſh* and *Highland Papiſts*, who were juſt ready to enter, and at ſuch a time, when the *Proteſtants* through the Kingdom were diſarmed, all Forts and Garriſons (except *London-Derry*) in the Hands of the *Papiſts*, the whole Army of the ſame cut, Maſs celebrated in every Town, and no way left to give a check to the accompliſhment of their *Unchriſtian deſigns*, & fruſtrating their *Plot* of a general *Maſſacre*; but by preſerving that Place in the Hands of the *Proteſtants*.

3. The Return of the Forces under the Command of Col. *Cunningham*, ſent to the Relief of *London-Derry*, without Entring the Place or Landing. It being morally certain, that if thoſe Forces had Landed under the Command of Experienced Officers, thoſe brave and hardy Men, who have ſo ſignalized themſelves by their Valor, had been ſuperſeded from Duty, and perhaps oblig'd to take the Field; and it may without offence be doubted, whether thoſe, who were to ſucceed them, would have given ſo advantageous an account of their Actions.

4. The deſertion of the Place by the then *Governour*, and (by his Example and Encouragement) the withdrawing of ſo many Gentlemen & Families into *England* & *Scotland*; whoſe continuance there, would quickly have conſumed the Proviſions in the Place, & obliged them to an unlimely Surrender.

5. The precipitancy and over-ſight of Col. *Lunay*, in deſerting the Place, and leaving above 400 Barrels of Powder in the Magazine, which he ought not to have done, when he thought the City was not Tenable; but that very Store, thus by Providence over-look't, and left behind, hath Defended the

Place, and contributed much to the Deſtruction of the Enemy.

6. The unanimous ſuffrage of the People in Electing & Conſtituting Mr. *George Walker their Commander in Chief*; than whom they could not have pitch'd upon a Perſon more compleatly adapted to ſo caprichious an Imployment; being a Man of Exquiſite Parts, having a neat Dexterity in accommodating the humours of the Rabble; a diſcreet Temper in moderating the diverſity of perſwaſions; a prudent managery of the common Proviſions; a vigilant Care in the order of Guards, Watches and Exerciſe; and an undaunted Courage in Leading them on to the moſt hazardous Enterprizes.

7. The departure of the moſt part of the Citizens and Inhabitants, who being unaccuſtomed with the dreadful Treatments of War, might probably have been induced to a Treaty of Surrender, in hope to ſave their Lives, their Houſes, and their Goods. And in their ſtead, the Arrival of ſo many Strangers from all parts of *Ulſter*, of whom the Garriſon was compoſed; who being enraged by the loſs of their Eſtates and Goods; and being made deſperate by their Confinement to that place, from whence there was no poſſibility of Retreat, or Eſcape; they have performed ſuch Actions, as no Arm of Fleſh would ever have atchieved, without a Divine Support.

8. The Arrival of Four Hundred and Eighty Barrels of Powder, with other Amunition, and Two Thouſand Arms, at ſuch a time, when the abſolute ſcarcity of ſuch Proviſion muſt neceſſarily have oblig'd the Inhabitants to Submit to their Enemies, upon the Firſt Inveſting of the Place.

9. The Retreat of the Forces from *Colerain*, which being a Place no way Tenable, they muſt have been expoſed to Rout and Ruin; whereas by their admiſſion into *London-Derry*, the Garriſon became recruited & re-inforced by many good Men.

10. The Treacherous Proceedings of the Enemy, as that of Lieutenant General *Hamilton*, who having promiſed and agreed that he ſhould not *March the Army within Four Miles of the Town*, made an orderly Approach to the Walls, during the very time of the Treaty: The Barbarous *Murder of Captain* Cunningham, *after being taken Priſoner, and Quarter given*; *the Firing of an Hundred ſhot at Mr.* Walker, *when he went out upon their hanging up a White-Flag*,

Flag, and their Invitation to a Treaty; their diſhonourable breaking of Parol, in detaining Mr. White *and two others, with their Boat, who were ſent out upon the Enemies deſire, that they might have leave to come to them*; Laſtly, *The Diſcovery of their Oath and Reſolutions not to keep Faith with the beſieged, and to break whatever Articles ſhould be made with them*; which one of their Party, a Priſoner in the Town, declared upon meer Conviction of Conſcience, and a Horror of their perfidious Dealings.

11. The falling of a *Bomb*, deſigned for Deſtruction, but by the direction of Providence, lighting in ſuch a Place, where by tearing open the Ground, a great many Sacks of Meal were diſcovered, which there had been buried; upon the ſight of which, the People were Encouraged to make a further ſearch in the Back-ſides and Yards, and found as much Proviſion as ſerved to Supply the Garriſon for a whole Month. The Error of the Enemies *Bombardeir*, in caſting a great Bomb beyond the Walls, which falling into a Mine, where the Enemy were buſie at work, deſtroy'd ſeveral of their own Men, and utterly fruſtrated that Deſign.

12. The many bold and ſucceſsful *Sallies* made by a mingled Company of freſh, untrain'd, unexperienc'd Men, againſt an Army of Twenty Thouſand well Diſciplin'd, well Arm'd, well Mounted Souldiers, animated with their uninterrupted Proceedings, and confident of Reducing that poor neglected Place, by Storming or Starving; whereof you may ſee ſome Inſtances in *Mr.* Walkers *Account of the Siege of London Derry*, pag. 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 33, 38. And which is very admirable, in all theſe Rencounters, and during the whole Siege, there were not above *Eighty Men* of the Garriſon cut off, while between *Eight and Nine Thouſand* of the beſiegers fell and periſhed.

13. The Proclamation ſet out by the Late King *James*, inviting all *Proteſtants* to return to their Dwellings, and remain under his Protection, had an Effect contrary to his intent, and help'd to keep *London-Derry* from falling into his Hands. For taking hold on this occaſion, above Ten Thouſand *Proteſtants*, of the moſt infirm, and moſt unſerviceable (who yet had Mouths and Bellies) went out of the Garriſon, and by that means the Proviſions laſted the longer.

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14. The barbarous and most inhumane *driving the Protestants before the Walls of London-Derry*, is not only remarkable, by their Dismission and their Escape from the Guns of the Town, which fired upon them; but that in their retreat, the *Governour* handsomely and undiscern'd, shuffled in among them above eight Hundred poor *Protestants*, Women, Children, and unserviceable Men, which in a few days must have perished in the Streets.

15. The wonderful and super-natural Courage of the very Women in the Town, who shewing no token of Fear or Dismay, appeared upon the Walls, upon every approach of the Enemy, regardless of the Bullets flying about them, running to and fro to furnish the Souldiers with Powder, and bringing Stones to supply them toward their better Resistance.

16. Nay, even Famine and Sickness contributed to the Preservation of the Place. For had it not pleased God (the Disposer of Life and Death) to take out of the World seven or eight Thousand of the besieged by such ways; the whole Number must inevitably have perished by want, or submit to the Arbitrary Terms of faithless and merciless Men.

Lastly, The most opportune Relief brought to them at the very pinch of Extreamity, *when they only reckoned upon two Days Life, and had only Nine lean Horses left, and among them all, but one Pint of Meal to each Man, and of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Regimented Men, only Four Thousand Three Hundred remaining; whereof at least one fourth Part was rendred unserviceable.* The wonderful breaking or passing the Boom (which the Enemy had laid cross the River) by the Skill and Valour of Capt. *Michaiah Browning*, who, under God, saved *London-Derry*, by the loss of himself. Had these things been effected sooner, men would have been too apt to boast of themselves, to ascribe their Deliverance to the Strength, Conduct, and Courage of their Relievers: Whereas now it is undeniably Evident, that God Almighty condescended to watch over that poor City, and to Rescue that Remnant of *Protestants*, from utter Destruction, when they were not capable to help themselves. *He only did it then, & He would not do it sooner.*

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